



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 340

February Session, 2002

House Bill No. 5705

House of Representatives, April 4, 2002

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. O'ROURKE of the 32nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A VOTER GUIDE FOR STATE ELECTIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2003*) (a) Not later than October
2 first in each year in which a state election, as defined in section 9-1 of
3 the general statutes, is to be held, the Secretary of the State, in
4 consultation with the State Elections Enforcement Commission, shall
5 prepare and publish on the Internet a voter guide for such state
6 election.

7 (b) The voter guide shall contain:

8 (1) Photographs and campaign statements submitted by candidates
9 who are nominated or qualify as petitioning candidates for election to
10 the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State
11 Treasurer, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State, State Senator or
12 State Representative at the state election;

- 13 (2) Maps showing the boundaries of General Assembly senatorial
14 and assembly districts and congressional districts;
- 15 (3) A description of each office to be filled at the state election;
- 16 (4) An absentee ballot application in printable format;
- 17 (5) Instructions regarding voting by absentee ballot;
- 18 (6) Information on the procedure for registering to vote;
- 19 (7) A voter registration application in printable format;
- 20 (8) The full text of each proposed constitutional amendment that
21 will appear on the ballot at the state election; and
- 22 (9) The explanatory text as to the content and purpose of each such
23 proposed constitutional amendment, which is prepared by the Office
24 of Legislative Research pursuant to section 2-30a of the general
25 statutes.
- 26 (c) Not later than one week after the date on which nominating
27 primaries are required to be held under section 9-423 of the general
28 statutes for offices to be filled at a state election, each candidate
29 described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section may file
30 with the Secretary of the State a photograph of the candidate,
31 biographical information and a statement advocating the candidate's
32 candidacy.
- 33 (d) Each such candidate shall have the equivalent of one printed
34 page of space in the Internet voter guide for such photograph,
35 biographical information and statement. Each such candidate's page
36 shall contain the statement, "Photograph, Information and Statement
37 Provided by the Candidate." Each candidate's biographical
38 information shall consist of not more than one hundred fifty words
39 and each candidate's advocacy statement shall contain not more than
40 two hundred fifty words. All photographs of candidates in the voter
41 guide shall be of uniform size and shall have been taken within five

42 years of the year of the state election.

This act shall take effect as follows:
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Section 1	<i>January 1, 2003</i>
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GAE *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Fund-Type	Agency Affected	FY 03 \$	FY 04 \$
GF - Cost	Secretary of the State	None	119,400
GF - Cost	Elect. Enforcement Com.	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill requires the secretary of the state (SOTS), in consultation with the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC), to prepare and publish on the Internet a voter guide for each state election.

There is expected to be no fiscal impact to SOTS in FY 03, as this bill does not require implementation until October 2004. In FY 04, and every even numbered year for state elections, the SOTS would incur an estimated cost of \$119,400 to develop and host a website adequate for the Internet voter guide. These costs are as follows:

Internet Project Manager	\$8,400
Senior Internet Developer	\$39,000
Web Hosting and Maintenance	<u>\$72,000</u>
Total	\$119,400

Passage of this bill will result in no fiscal impact to SEEC.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5705

AN ACT CONCERNING A VOTER GUIDE FOR STATE ELECTIONS**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the secretary of the state, in consultation with the State Elections Enforcement Commission, to prepare and publish on the Internet a voter guide for each state election. She must complete it by October 1 in the even-numbered years.

The voter guide must include:

1. photographs and campaign statements submitted by candidates for the six state constitutional offices and the state legislature;
2. maps showing the boundaries of congressional and legislative districts;
3. a description of each office to be filled;
4. an absentee ballot application form in printable format with instructions on how to vote by absentee ballot;
5. a voter registration form in printable format with information on voter registration procedures; and
6. the text of each proposed constitutional amendment, if any, and the explanatory text for it.

The candidates have one week after the primary to file their photographs, biographical information, and statements with the secretary of the state. In the Internet voter guide, each candidate gets the equivalent of one printed page that includes the statement: "Photograph, Information and Statement Provided by the Candidate." Each candidate's biographical information must be 150 words or less and his campaign statement is limited to 250 words. Photographs of all the candidates must be the same size and no more than five years old. Party-nominated and qualified petitioning candidates for the constitutional and state legislative offices may submit information for the guide.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2003

BACKGROUND***State Elections***

The following officials are elected at state elections: U.S. senators and representatives in Congress, governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, state treasurer, secretary of the state, state comptroller, state senators and state representatives, probate judges, and registrars of voters.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 19 Nay 0